

Message Text

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45

ACTION OC-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-05 ISO-00 CCO-00 /012 W

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P R 191615Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8654

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOPW

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 2805

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ACOM NG MR

SUBJECT: NOUAKCHOTT-NIAMEY HF LINK

ACCRA FOR RCO

DEPARTMENT FOR A/OC AND AF

REF: A. STATE 180804 B. NIAMEY 2749

1. AS MUCH AS WE HATE TO UPSET CURRENT PLANS FOR NIAMEY-NOUCHCHOTT
HF RADIO LINK, AND AS HELPFUL AS REF A IS IN PROVIDING US
WITH RATIONALE TO USE WITH GON, WE BELIEVE WE MUST GO BACK
TO DRAWING BOARD ON ANTENNA PROGRAM

2. INTENT OF REF B WAS NOT TO CONCEAL ANTENNA, WHICH IS A
CONTRADICTION IN TERMS. WHAT WE HAD IN MIND WAS RELOCATING
ANTENNA TO REAR OF CHANCERY EITHER ON TOP OF WAREHOUSE OR
DIRECTLY ADJACENT TO IT AND APPROXIMATELY SAME DISTANCE FROM
CHANCERY AS PROPOSED SITE. THIS WOULD MAKE ANTENNA LESS
OBVIOUS TO GENERAL PUBLIC THAN PLACING THIS CONSTRUCTION
IN FRONT OF CHANCERY IN FULL SIGHT OF ROAD AND ALL VISITORS.
THIS STRIKES US AS DELIBERATELY PROVOCATIVE BOTH TO GON AND AS
POSING POTENTIAL SECURITY PROBLEMS.

3. ORIGINAL CONCURRENCE FOR SITE AT FRONT SIDE OF
CHANCERY SUBMITTED IN OCTOBER 1973 WAS BASED ON EDIFICE
DESCRIBED AS SIMPLE 40 FOOT TOWER. WE ARE NOW TOLD
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THAT 40 FOOT TOWER WILL BE TOPPED BY ANTENNA MEASURING 49 FEET

BY 34 FEET. QUITE APART FROM AESTHETIC CONSIDERATION, I
FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT ANYONE COULD SERIOUSLY ENTERTAIN
THE THOUGHT OF HAVING SUCH AS EDIFICE AS MAJOR LANDMARK ON
AMERICAN EMBASSY COMPOUND OUT IN FRONT OF CHANCERY. AS
MATTERS NOW STAND, MODIFICATIONS IN EXISTING FOUNDATIONS
ARE REQUIRED. SINCE EXPENDITURES TO DATE HAVE BEEN
RELATIVELY SMALL, WE BELIEVE THIS IS TIME TO CHANGE LOCATION
AND IF ADDITIONAL ENGINEERING IS REQUIRED, WE URGE APPROPRIATE
PERSONNEL BE DISPATCHED HERE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOR THIS
PURPOSE. IN LONG RUN, THIS SHOULD SAVE US MANY HEADACHES.HECK

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